[Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan]

Sati Act. It is such a pernicious practice. In fact, it is-not even a practice. It is going back to the stone ages. It is uncivilised and barbaric to think that a women should go... ('Interruptions). I am sure every single Member of this House will agree with me that it is a shame and a slur on the civilised society and India that today we are even talking about something like 'Sati' in India. We should not even be talking about it. In these circumstances, the Abolition of Sati Act was passed by the Congress Government and according to that, even the glorification of 'Sati' which means 'the observance of any ceremony or supporting justifying or propagating the pratice of Sati in any manner'—this is on the A'ct— is an offence and it is punishable with imprisonment. Secondly, if anybody is convicted under the Act, he or sne should immediately be disqualified from the Membership of Parliament. We have amended the Representation of the People Act to that effect. This is section 8-A of the Representation of the People Act.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please be brief because we are not discussing 'Sati' as n°w.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRA-JAN; Only one more second, Madam. I do not want to take the time of the House. We have amended the Representation of the People Act to the effect that if any Member is convicted of an offence under the Sati Act, he should be immediately disqualified and cannot stand for another election. In these circumstances, a senior Vice-President of the BJP has publicly supported 'sati' and yesterday, she has gone on record in the other House, I am not referring to those proceedings.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No mention of the other House or the proceeding^ of the other House.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHi; NATARA-JAN. She has publicly reiterated her stand on 'sati'. If this Government is really serious, it is not enough to say so. To say, T am against voluntary 'sati' but if a woman wants to go and commit suicide or die on her husband's pyre, it is Hindu religion' still amounts to glorifying 'sati'. Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should immediately prosecute the person concerned, take action, against her and see that she is disqualified. Otherwise, nobody is serious about 'Sati'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Atalji. (Interruptions). We are not discussing 'sati'. There is no discussion. There is no question of party representation of it. We all know everybody's view. I am only allowing him because the Member belongs to that party.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया,...

कुछ माननीय सदस्य : ये क्यों बोल रहे हैं ?...(व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : क्योंकि बी० जे० पी० के वाइस प्रेसिडेंट का नाम लिया गया है... (व्यवधान)

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी अगर मेरी पार्टी का नाम न लिया जाता तो मैं खड़ा न होता...

उपसभापति : मैंने इसीलिए आपको ऐलाउ किया...

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : इसीलिए मैं खड़ा हुआ ...(व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : आप बात तो करने दीजिए उनको बोलने दीजिए, अपनी बात कहने दीजिए...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARA-JAN (Tamil Nadu); Madam, please allow me *to* speak for one second. *ilnterruptixms).*

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपसे एक मिनट की अनुमति चाहता हूं। यहां दिल्ली में एक जिमखाना क्लब है। उस जिमखाना क्लब में कल कुछ सांसदों ने जाने का प्रयास किया। महोदया, जिमखाना कलब का यह नियम हैं कि जो भारतीय वेषभूषा है– धोती और कुर्ता––उसे पहनकर वहां नहीं जा सकते । महोदया, मैं इस बात को मानता हूं कि यह प्राइवेट क्लब है लेकिन यह 27 एकड़ सरकारी जमीन पर बना हुआ है। यह जिमखाना क्लब तो गुलामी का प्रतीक है, अंग्रेजों के जमाने की निशानी है।

महोदया, मेरा निवेदन है कि संसद को इस तरह का कानून बनाना चाहिए कि जिससे कोई भी प्राइवेट क्लब देशी वेशभूषा पर रोक न लगा सके । धोती-कुर्ता पहने सांसद कल जिमखाना क्लब गए थे . . . (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : एक मिनट, मालवीय जी। मैं आपकी भावनाओं से सहमत हूं कि इस देश में हरेक को अपना लिबास पहनने का अख्तियार होना चाहिए । चाहे धोती-कुर्ता पहनें, चाहे साड़ी पहनें, चाहे पेंट पहनें, कुछ भी पहनें मगर यह चूंकि प्राइवेट क्लब है इसलिए आज के नियमों के मुताबिक उसमें हम हस्तक्षेप नहीं कर सकते ।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय: 27 एकड़ सरकारी जमीन का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। महात्मा गांधी, राजेन्द्र प्रसाद, आचार्य कृपलानी और जयप्रकाश नारायण जी जैसे लोग यदि जीवित होते तो ऐसा नहीं होता। महोदया, मेरा निवेदन है कि यह सारे राष्ट्र का अपमान है।

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदया, इसके नियमों, में कुछ परिवर्तन किया जाना चाहिए ।

उपसभापति : वह तो जब होगा तब होगा मगर आज जो हालात हैं वह तो रहेंगे। आप हाऊस में कोई भी डीसेंट लिबास पहनकर आ सकते हैं, में आब्जेक्ट नहीं करूंगी। जहां मेरा ज्यूरिसडिक्शन है वहां आपको कपड़ों के लिहाज से हर चीज की इजाजत है।

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): Ma-gal): Madam, don't stretch it too far. *(Interruptions).* The Leader of the opposition.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Ben-dam, I would like to bring to your kind notice that just now, the anti-reservation agitationists have forced themselves into Jawahar Bhavan and have broken the glass panes. The misfortune is that there is no police to protect it. May I request the Leader of the House to take some action and see... *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: will ask the Government to protectJawa har Bhavan and every otherplace which is being attacked.

REPORTED PRO-SATI STAND OF A PARTY LEADER

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARA-JAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam, please permit me to raise a matter which I have been trying to raise from yester day. Yesterday some other issues were taken up. Yesterday we passed the National Commission on Women Bill. The entire House unanimously approved the Bill... (Interruptions)... reservations. The Government have been saying that they want to give status to women, involvement in national development, share in the power structure, development of women and so many things. Madam, we know that the previous Congress Government headed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi has passed the Sati Act. Till today, it is such a pernicious... *(Interruption).*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anti-Sati.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARA-JAN. It is called the Prevention of